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Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON. JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR The subscription price of this paper for a year is Two

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1864.

THE DOCTRINE OF MILITARY IMPUTATION.

Immediately after the last repulse of our forces at Olustee, in Florida, it was generally felt by the public press that a scapegoat must be selected to bear the patriotic indignation of the country at such a calamity. It was admitted on all hands that "somebody had blundered." The only question was, "Who shall bear the blame?" The political friends of the Administration were quite unanimously agreed in appointing General SEY-MOUR, the commander of our troops in Florida, to perform the office of expiation demanded by the melancholy occasion. The New York Evening Post, than which the Republican party has no more intelligent or influential organ, was among the foremest to raise the hue and cry against this officer. And, lest any body might suppose that he was selected at random for the purpose of being vicariously offered up to appeare the military gods of the nation, the reason of his imputed military guilt was carefully assigned by our contemporar when it described him as an "habitual contemner of the negro race," also of "negro troops," and a "virulent pro-slavery man." It is known that these are the qualities which are judged to be indispensable to a modern military scapegoat. A Senator, Mr. HENDERSON, of Missouri, speaking on the subject only a few days ago, remarked:

"Congress keeps up the old theme, devising ways and means to cripple slavery. We set as though a Presiden-tial proclamation against slavery would end the rebellion. A diseased and morbid sentiment on the subject has spread abroad. We want something done, after which no doubt remains that slavery is dead. This r stlessness leads us into many errors. Some of us measure the capacity of officers in the field, not so much by successful strategy against the enemy as by their activity in freeing slaves. In which, under change of circumstances, may place our own rights at the mercy of military power. An illegal procla mation against slavery comes like a mantle of charity to cover a multitude of faults. It is as the waters of the Jordan, washing out the taint of leprosy. He who is known to be anti-slavery may drive ten thousand men to unavailing slaughter. The country laments the dead, but honors the hero. Why not? Cæsar lost Dyrrhachium; Hannibal lost Zama; Napoleon lost Lepsic and Waterloo. The country may bleed, but the heart of our hero is right. He that is thought to be doubtful upon this all-absorbing question is under constant suspicion Ten nor twenty successful battles can save him. The tale

Gen. Seymour, it seems, is not willing to bear the burden of the lost battle at Olustee in deference to this modern doctrine of imputation. In a letter to the editors of the Evening Post he says:

"Pro-slavery sentiments—even in a moderate form—I never entertained. But I despise and scorn the hypocritical and sanctimonious philanthropy of some who are fat-tening—persocally, pecuniarily, and politically—upon the wrongs of the black, but who have been very careful never to set him an example on the battle field. And that I have faithfully carried out the desires and commands of the Government, so far as I have had command of colored troops, the following letters will best show."

Then follows an array of testimony from many officers associated with Gen. Seymour which fully exonerates him from the charges of the Evening Post: and as that journal had particularly inveighed against Gen. Seymour because of his alleged "contemptuous treatment of Robert Small, the gallant colored pilot who brought the steamer Planter out of the harbor of Charleston, and who is one of the heroes of our war," the General very cogently produces a letter from Robert Small flatly contradicting the Post's statement. Gen. Seymour, we doubt not, was quite right in supposing, as he does, that Robert's testimony would be a "clincher" with the Evening Post. Accordingly he cannot be disappointed to find to at our contemperary makes honorable amends for the error into which it fell when it pronounced him a bad General because of his supposed opinions on ethnology and

politics. The Post says: In respect to Gen Seymour, whose brave services at unter and elsewhere we have been always prompt to cknowledge, and against whose courage or honor no word has ever been whispered, we must observe that we have and nothing upon mere rumor or hearsny. Our remark ents, on whom we have had every reason to rely, and upon the personal observations of one of our own staff. But as he brings against these the testimony of officers who have had better opportunities of witnessing his deport ment, we are bound to consider his leiter a complete and satisfactory exoneration. Let us add, that it gives us the greatest pleasure to learn that we have been mistaken in regard to his sentiments on slavery and his treatment of the colored troops. His vindication will also be read with interest by a large part of the loyal community, which desires to see its soldiers, like the bumane and chivalrous Bayard, not only 'without fear,' but 'without reprosch.'

THE BATTLES IN LOUISIANA.

The reader will find on the preceding page the best account we have yet received of the late battles by Louisiana. It comes to us by way of New Orleans, and confirms previous reports of the success of our army on Saturday, the 9th instant. Upon that day the tables appear to have been completely turned upon the enemy The lesses on both sides on both days seem to have been very severe. The Confederates are supposed to have retreated upon Streveport. Gen. BANKS, it appears, was not in a condition to follow them immediately. The careful reader will not fail to notice that, according to the detailed reports given to. day, (and we have noticed the same fact in many letters to Western newspapers,) General BANKS was in the field on the 8th instant, and that General STONE, who was charged in the first despatch from Cairo with having been responsible for the defeat of that day, is not mentioned at all, er cpt for his brave and laudable effort to save some of the guns which were eventually lost. The defeat of the 8th seems to have resulted from overconfidence in the advance corps, which, when assailed by overpowering numbers of the enemy, it yas found impossible to sustain by the other adwancing columns.

CONTEMPT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

It is one among the most depressing signs of

the times through which we are passing that a large portion of the American people have come to treat the Constitution of the United States with "derision." And in so saving we do not refer to the armed insurgents, who have cast off allegiance to its authority, and who are in league for its destruction. We refer to that class of self-styled loyal men who, in the pursuit of their passionate policy against the insurgents, have brought themselves to believe that in the conduct of the war and in the adoption of all legislative measures judged to be expedient for the present emergency, they are emancipated from the limitations and sanctions of the Constitution. Hence the impatience with which constitutional objections are scouted by his God far better: many who do not deem it worth their while to let such objections stand in the way of their wishes and purposes. It is held to be a sufficient reply to all such objections to say that those who utter them wish to make the Constitution "a shield for traitors." And so it has come to pass that professedly "loyal men" vie with "traitors" in making the Constitution an object of derision. The frantic violence of extremists on both sides conducts to the same revolutionary coincidence of theory, and makes these extremists mutual auxiliaries in the work of destroying the foundations on which the fabric of our institutions once rested in symmetry and strength.

Mr. Senator COLLAMER, of Vermont, forcibly referred, on the 15th instant, to this evil portent of our times, while remarking on a bill to prohibit speculation in gold, then pending in the Senate, against which he had the presumption to bring a constitutional objection. He said:

derision here; with many gentlemen it is an object of de-rision. As it is so in a great measure, and a man is specred at for mentioning the Constitution, and if he has a decent respect for it and for his own oath he is called a 'timid' man, I do not wish to take up much of the atten-tion of a body where such a subject is treated in such a manner. I will merely say that I do not see how we have power to forbid people, or to regulate, if you please, peo. ign exchange, any more than in relation to any other piece of property. Have you power to forbid the buying and selling of foreign goods because the buying and selling of foreign goods, it is said, occasions gold to be carried out of the country? I do not see how we have the power, where that power is found in the Constitution, by which we can undertake to forbid people trading in an article of compares. Foreign people there is a lawful article of compares. otherwise a lawful article of commerce. Foreign paper is as much so as foreign goods are. That is the trouble I have with it I do not suppose it is worth any time. The value of the time of the Senate is too great for me to to be under the necessity of inculcating such an

of Illinois, felt constrained a few days later to re- without toleration. buke this same tendency, while pointing out the

impolicy, not to say the iniquity, of treating constitutional scruples with contempt. He said: "The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. WILSON) says but, sir, if we have done any thing to weaken the power of by assuming action which the exigencies of the country did not require. We have a great work to do to save the country, save the Constituteon, save constitutional liberty. We want the arms and the help of all the people of the loyal States. We want to get up no divisions about whether women's rights should prevail, or about establishing for a temporary purpose, in some far-off Territory, a principle that is to alienate and divide loyal men and friends of the Government. Sir, it is of a piece with another declaration that I have heard sometimes in this chamber. and have always regretted when I have heard it, and that was, that it mattered not whether a thing was constitu-tional or not. Sir, this Government cannot be saved, constitutional liberty cannot be saved, unless we save it loyal reople? How is it that there is an opposition in the latter.

Northern States? On what is it based? It is under the pretence that the Government, in its effort to put down this rebellion, has usurped authority, has assumed to it

most frequently they are unjust. But I would avoid, if I could, the appearance of a violation of the Constitution." The necessity of a loyal adherence to the Constitution in this time of public danger was also tial contest, and adds: Connecticut, on the 20th instant, while discussing mation of fugitive slaves. He spoke thus :

self powers not warranted by the Constitution. I think

these charges are not always just. I know they are not :

"Our political salvation is in the Constitution. Let men think or say what they will; let them imagine that better step aside from the Constitution, we delude ourwe think we can abandon that instrument and duty, the path of the Constitution; and divergence from it is dangerous. In time of public danger, when our people are tried to their utmost power of endurance, the national life imperilled, I am willing to go as far as can be gone with safety in finding authority in the instrument for the exercise of positive and summary powers; I am willing to strain the Constitution so far as it is possible; but after all the Constitution is and must be our sheet anchor. If we part the cable that holds us to that our gallant ship of state will be addiff, and will soon be dashed upon the of State will be addit, and will soon be dashed upon the rocks now covered with the wrecks of former days, and the rich treasures of the present and the most glorious hopes of humanity for the future with which that ship is freighted will all perish together.

"I agree with those who think that slavery has been one of the efficient cause, the moving power, and I agree with Seastors in

at as early a day as by possibility it can be properly done.
I go with men here and every where in all lawful endeavors to put an end to this institution, and to put such an end to it as shall be final. But I cannot subscribe to the morality that because certain men in certain States of the Union, actuated by the love of slavery and the desire that that interest should be a permanent and paramount interest in the country, have risen up and attempted to strike at the vitals of this Government and to overthrow it, there re we are relieved from all constitutional obligations.

ing the slave States, it is not true of the whole. As to all the States in rebellion of course there is no question There are certain of the slave States who yet keep faith mith us as well as we with them. There is the State of Maryland, represented here by the distinguished gentleman who is so able to represent either the State or the country here and every where, and his most worthy and patriotic colleague, unfortunately absent because of serious personal injury. There is the State of Kentucky there is the State of Missouri; there is the State of Dela ware; these States have not gone out of the Union even nominally. No State can go out, in my opinion, but those have not pominally, nor have they made any attempt to go out of the Union. Are we at liberty to disregard all our constitutional obligations to the men of those States? I hold that all the citizens in the loyal States of

this country, notwithstanding this rebellion, have all their constitutional rights to-day that they ever had; that it is bad faith on our part to deny them one of those constitutional rights. It is no very high morality to insist on that; it is a very low form of morality to deny it

"I believe, Mr. President, that justice will be done and the rights of freedom."

the rights of freedom amply vindicated by passing the bill as it now stands, repealing all the acts but the act of 1793, which, as I think, should remain on our statute-book, at east until the final adoption of the constitutional amend nent, which we have passed through this body with such an approach to unanimity, abolishing slavery throughouthe territory of the United States, and making our land the territory of the United States, and making our land, should it be adopted, really free, when it will be a happy and glorious country. I know that in making such assertions as these I subject myself to criticism from certain sources. I will not at this hour of the day undertake to argue upon that criticism. I will simply read a passage from Guizot's Memoirs, published only a few years ago, volume one, pages 46, 47. I need not, of course, say to the Senate who Guizot is—the scholar, the statesman, the philosopher, the Christian philanthropist of his age and time; who, like Cardinal Wolsey, has 'sounded all the depths and shoals of honor;' like him served his king coalously and well, but his country, his fellow-men, and

his God far better:

"I recognise no greater danger to free institutions than that blind tyramy which the habitual fanaticism of partian ship, whether of a faction or a small segment, pretends to exercise in the name of liberal ideas.

"Are you a staunch advocate for constitutional government and political goarantees? Do you wish to live and act in co-operation with the party which hoists the standard? Rene unce at once your judgment and your independence. In that party you will find upon all questions and under all circumstances opinions ready formed and resolutions settled beforehand which asseme the right of your entire control. Self evident facts are in open contradict in to these opinions—you are forbidden to see them. Powerful obstacles oppose there resolutions—you are not allowed to think of them Equity and prudence suggest circumspection—you must east it is side. You are in presence of a superstitious creao and a popular passion. Do not argue—you wou'd no longer be a liberal. Do not oppose—you would be looked upon as a mutineer. Obey, advance—no matter at what pace you are urged or on what road. If you cease to be a slave, you instantly become a deserter!"

"Mr. President, I think the lessons of history and our own

"Mr. President, I think the lessons of history and our own experience all teach us that in the trying days in which we are called to live our hope, our safety is in banding ourselves together to sustain the Constitution of our

The contempt of the Constitution deplored by these enlightened friends of the Ad ninistration, or, if not always the contempt of that instrument where it stands in the way of the passion cherish-"I do not wish to occupy the time of the Senate unless I am compelled to do so at some stage of this business, by making any remarks about the Constitution of the United States. I think it a subject almost of any measure of policy on constitutional grounds. any measure of policy on constitutional grounds, portends infallibly one of two things: either the sure subversion of our civil institutions, or a sure political reaction against the maxims which inculcate the duty of passive submission to the behests of party. The friends of the Administration have it within their power to avert the one and the other of these consequences by foll wing the rule of duty which Senator Trumbull prescribes to himself and his party when he advises against even "the appearance of violating the Constituelementary principle of political morality, and that will say that I certainly do not object to a constitutional for simply obeying his clear convictions of consti-"Mr. COLLAMER. I did not speak of it as if it could be tutional duty a Senator like Mr. Foster should be made a point of order on any man here. [Laughter] It called to make defence as if replying to an injurious accusation. There may be toleration where Another Republican Senator, Mr. TRUMBULL, there is no liberty, but there can be no liberty

It is known to our readers that in the discharge of our duty as independent journalists we have semetimes felt ourselves laid under the obligation of dissenting from the practical expediency or conthat my tone is not the right one. Perhaps it may not be; stitutional rightfulness of particular measures of the patriolic people to put down the rebellion, it has been policy adopted by the present Administration. And for the candid but moderate expression of our opinions to this effect it has been our fortune sometimes to incur obloquy and misrepresentation, proceeding generally, it is true, from quarters which did not make it more difficult to bear than the similar impatience of opposition which we were called to meet under the dynasty of the socalled "slave power," whose measures of policy we could not approve, however convenient or profitable it might have been for us then, as now, to under the Constitution. We are fighting for liberty regu-lated by law-for constitutional liberty; and, so far from run with the current. It is pleasant to be "in strengthening the Government, so far from weakening the the majority," but when "the majority" is on one rebellion, you divide the loyal sentiment of the North, you side and the Constitution and truth are on the out constitutional authority. What is it that divides the other we shall always seek to range ourselves with

INVERTED LOGIC.

The Washington political correspondent of the Boston Recorder, a religious journal, writing from this city under date of the 16th instant, expresses the opinion that the proposed amendment of the Constitution prohibiting slavery will be the principal element in the approaching Presiden-

eloquently asserted by Mr. Senator FOSTER, of "And so the world moves. In 1860 Mr. Lincoln was the candidate of the Republicans, standing on a platform that prohibited any interference with slavery in the States. the proposition to repeal all statutes for the recla- He is elected, and within two years issues a proclamation abolishing slavery in all the States; and in two years more lies in an amendment abolishing elavery in the United States forever! Surely God's ways are not our ways, and we can afford, at his bidding, to pass through the Red Sea of war, slaughter and debt, to be brought into a free land;

freeing all our institutions." go on to victory. The path of glory is here the path of duty, the path of the constitution; and divergence from know by what process of inverted logic the writer is sure

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer. ecceeded in cutting away the flag mast at the fort. This was replaced, and the "Stars and Stripes" again floated uly in the face of the foe, and gallantly did the force within defend it.

The rebels then advanced slowly forward, gradually and my desire to see that institution blotted out from the earth | carefully feeling their way up to within a short distance of the fort, when they made an impetuous charge. They were received with a galling fire, which thinned their ranks and caused them to fall back. Again and again they rallied and endeavored to take the citadel by force, but to no purpose. Each time they were repulsed with fearful slaughter. They retired, their artillery still keeping up

The rebel force menacing Plymouth is reported as being from ten to fifteen thousand strong, the cavalry being under the command of Gen. Ransom. Gen. Wessels is in command of the Union forces. He has Plymouth well fortified, and it is pronounced impregnable. In front of the town are stationed several gunboats. They have done good service, and will continue to do more. They have had to stand already much of the brunt of the engagement. The rebels artillery fire has been directed on them, and it is said that on the gunboat Bombabell several have been killed and wounded. All the citizens have left Plymouth and the most of them are quartered on Roanoke Island. Several of the rebel shells feil in the town.

It is rumored that the rebels have also made a detration simultaneous with this in the vicinity of Newbern The Confeder tes have a great anxiety to redeem the State f North Carolina, as they see that it is fast receding from their grasp. Though they may use exertions almost super-human, they will find that the Union arms can cope suc-ceasfully with any force they may bring. THE BATTLES IN LOUISIANA.

A THREE DAYS' FIGHT, ENDING IN A UNION VICTORY.

New Orleans journals of the 16th instant furnish some further and highly interesting particulars of the late battles in Louisiana. The subjoined account is copied from the New Orleans Era, which deemed it probable that another engagement would be fought at an early day, as i had "learned on good authority that Gen. Banks expressed the intention of giving battle once more as soon as opportunity offered."

THE ADVANCE AND FIRST FIGHT.

Our army broke camp at Natchitoches on the morning of the 6th instant, and marched out on the Shreveport road, the cavalry advancing twenty-one miles and resting for the night at Crump's Hill, the infantry halting three or four miles to the rear, on the banks of a bayou. On the following morning at daybreak the cavalry again started, and came upon a body of mounted rebels before they had marched two miles. Fighting began at once, and the enemy were rapidly driven before our troops. This running style of fight was kept up for fourteen miles, until they had got two miles beyond Pleasant Hill. Here a force of two thousand five hundred rebel cavalry, commanded by Gen. Green, were found strongly posted on Wilson's plantation. The rebels were deployed along the edge of a dense strip of woods, with an open field in front, over which we had to charge to reach them.

The only Union soldiers that had advanced far enough to take part in the fight, which was inevitable, was the cavalry brigade of Lee's corps, commanded by Col. Harry Robinson. As he had either to attack or be attacked, he decided to take the initiative, and he led his men in with such a dash and vigor that at last the enemy was completely whipped and driven from the field. The engagement lasted two hours and a half, and our losses amounted to about forty killed and wounded, the enemy's being at least as many. Col. Robinson pursued the retreating rebels as far as Bayou du Paul, where he found they had received heavy reinforcements, including four pieces of artillery, and were again in line of battle waiting, attack It was nearly dark, and the risk being too great in again attacking with his small force, he placed his men in the most advantageous position available and awaited the progress of events. Nothing further was accomplished on the

During the night a brigade of infantry, commanded by Colonel Landrum, came up, and early in the morning of the following day (Friday, the 8th) the march was resumed. The rebels were found to be on the alert and

ready for the fray, and fighting opened almost at once. The disposition of our forces at the beginning of this day's battle was : Colonel Landrum's infantry brigade on the right of the Shreveport road, and Colonel Lucas's cavalry brigade on the left. The skirmishing was fierce and every foot of ground won from the enemy had to be taken by hard knocks; but at two o'clock in the afternoon our forces had compelled the enemy to retreat seven miles. Our loss, as well as the enemy's, was very severe during this time-Lieut. Col Webb. of the 77th Illinois shot through the head and instantly killed, and Captain Breese, commanding 6th Missouri cavalry, severely wounded in the arm, being among the casualties on our

The enemy was now met in strong force, under com mand of General Kirby Smith. That Generals Dick Taysand men, while our force was comparatively a mere handful. The rebels occupied a strong position in the vicinity of Sabine Cross Roads, concealed in the edge of a dense wood, with an open field in front, Shreveport road passing through their lines.

Gen. Ransom, arriving on the field with his command, formed his line as well as circumstances would permit. after reconnoitering and feeling the rebel position. Col Emerson's brigade, of the Thirteenth Corps, was stationed on the left of the line, with Nims's Massachusetts Battery Col Landrun's forces, part of two brigades, on the right and centre, with Rawles's Battery G, Fifth Regulars, and a battery of the First Indiana Artillery in rear of his right and centre. Col. Dudley's brigade of cavalry (of Lee's corps) supported the left, and held itself in readiness to repel any attempt to flank, while Lucas protected the right flank. Col. Robinson, with his brigade, was in the rear of the centre, protecting the wagon train, which was on the Shreveport road.

Gen. Banks and staff rode upon the field by the time this disposition of our forces was effected, and word was sent back to Gen Franklin to make all speed for the scene of the momentarily expected battle. It was the design of Gen Banks to remain quiet until the remainder of his Kirby Smith, knowing his own superiority in numbers. began the couff of before they could arrive.

About five o'clock the firing between the skirmishers became very hot, and in a short time our skirmish line was driven back upon the main body by an overwhelming force. The whole strength of the enemy was then advanced, and heavy and repeated volleys were discharged and replied to on our right and centre. Soon this portion of our line became heavily engaged, and all our available strength was required to prevent its being crushed by the masses of the enemy

Our left, which was now also hotly fighting, was necessarily much weakened, and it was observed that a strong body of the enemy was massing in a dense piece of woods preparatory to dashing down and flanking this end of the line. The danger was plain and imminent; but there was no remedy. Gen. Stone ordered Gen. Lee to have Nime's battery withdrawn, although it was doing great execution, in order that it might not become a prize to the enemy, and Gen. Lee sent his aid-de-camp, Colonel J. S. Brisbin, to withdraw the battery. On reaching the point its removal was found impossible, nearly every one of the horses having been killed. In a few moments more a solid mass of the rebels swept down upon the spot and four of the guns were taken, the other two being dragged from the field by hand.

The havor made in the ranks of the enemy at this point is represented as appalling, the whole six guns belching forth double charges of grape and canister, and some five or six rounds were fired between the time the rebels left the woods until the artillerymen were forced from their pieces As the rebels were in mass, the execution such a shower of missiles caused can easily be imagined. The two senior officers of the battery were wounded, Lieut. Snow mortally, he having since died. The forces that made this charge were commanded by the rebel Gen. Mouton, who fell shot through the body with four balls.

The fighting on all parts of our line was now at short range, and, to use the expression of one of the participants, " we were holding on by the skin of our teeth only." It was known that Franklin's troops had been sent for, and anxious and wistful were the glances cast to the rear. Gen. Cameron, with his brigade, came up, and going into action at once on the right, where the battle again waxed hottest, cre-ted the impression that the veterans of the Nineteenth bad arrived, and a glad and exultant shout went up from our wearied and desperately situated little

This belief was strengthened by the arrival of Gen. Franklin, who dashed boldly into the thickest of the fray, cap in hand, and cheering on the men. Gen. Banks, too, to recover their good order, but Gen. Smith ordered a be shut up in a prison for doing so,

seemed ubiquitous, riding wherever the men wavered, and by personal example inciting them to renewed deeds of daring and reckless valor. Cols. Clark and Wilson, with other members of the staff, sabre in hand, mixed with the oldiers on foot and on horseback, and cheered and en couraged them to continue the unequal fight. But human beings could not longer withstand such fierce and overpowering onslaughts as our men were bearing up against, and our line finally gave way at all points, and the men fell back, fiercely contesting the ground they yielded.

Unfortunately a sad mishap befell them at this time. The large and cumbersome wagon train blocked up the way; the frightened horses dashed through the infantry lines, entangled themselves with the artillery, and created a momentary but unfortunate confusion. This gave the rebels, who were rapidly pressing us, possession of several pieces of artillery. Gen. Franklin was conspicious during this part of the day, rallying the men, and two horses were killed under him. Capt. Chapman, of his staff, had both feet taken off him by a round shot, and the horse of Capt. Franklin was killed at the same time.

The enemy followed our men step by step for three and a half miles, but he was advancing to meet a fearful retribution. The Nineteenth Army Corps had been ordered to stop and form its line of battle ; the retreating Union troops passed through this line and formed in the rear. The rebels, thinking they had repulsed our whole army, dashed impetuously on, and thought the line, but half visible in the woods before them, was another feeble but desperate stand of a few men.

Gen. Emory commanded this force, consisting of two full brigades, and he ordered the fire to be reserved until the rebels were within short range, when from both infantry and the artillery, posted thickly along this line, a storm of iron and lead was hurled upon the foe that literally mowed them down. The rebels halted in amazement, but still they fought bravely. Voltey after volley was discharged from each side full into the ranks of their opponents, but neither gave signs of yielding, and night charitably threw her mantle over the ghastly scene, and enforced a cessation of hostilities.

The two divisions under command of Gen. A. J. Smith belonging to the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps had reached Pleasant Hill, and were there halted. General Banks determined to withdraw his army to that point for the sake of the advantageous position which he could there occupy, knowing that the enemy would follow what they upposed to be a demoralized army.

In accordance with this plan of operations, all our men were quietly withdrawn from the enemy's front, and the ine of march taken up for Pleasant Hill. This conjunction of his forces was satisfactorily effected, and the result ed that although the first body started at ten o'clock, and the remainder were not all under way until nearly day, the rebels had not the slightest suspicion of what was go-

THE THIRD DAY'S FIGHT

At seven o'clock on Saturday morning, the 9th, our orces were all at Pleasant Hill, and the rebels were adancing, cavalry in front, endeavoring to discover our position. Colonel O. P. Gooding, with his brigade of Lee's cavalry corps, was sent out on the Shreveport road to meet the enemy and draw him on. He had gone about a mile when he came upon the rebel advance. Skirmi-hing immediately ensued, and, according to the plan, he slowly The fight was very sharp between these cavalry bodies

and Col. Gooding lost nearly forty men killed and wounded, inflicting, however, as much damage as he received Among his casualties are Capt. Becker and Lieut. Hall, lor. Mouton, Green, and Price were also there, was after- of the Second New York veteran cavalry. Lieut. Hall wards ascertained from prisoners, who also stated that has since died of his wounds. Col. Gooding made a narrow escape, a ball passing through and tearing the crow out of his bat and grazing the skin. The brigade behaved very gallactly, covering Gen. Emory's front until his line

The ttle-field of Pleasant Hill is a large, open field, which had once been cultivated, but is now overgrown with weeds and bushes. The slightly elevated centre of the field, from which the name of Pleasant Hill is taken, is nothing more than a long mound, hardly worth the name of hill. A semi-circular belt of timber runs round the field on the Shreveport side.

Gen. Emory formed his line of battle on the side facing these woods, Gen McMillan's brigade being posted on the right, Gen. Dwight's on the centre, and Col. Benedict on the left. Taylor's battery, L. First Regulars, had four guns in rear of the left wing, on the left of the Shreveport road, and two on the road in rear of Gen Dwight's line. Hilberd's Vermont Battery was on the right.

In the rear of Emory, and concealed by the rising ground were Gen. Smith's tried troops, formed in two lines of battle, fifty yards apart. All his artillery was in the front line-s piece, section or battery being on the flank of each regiment-the infantry lying between them. The Thirteenth corps was a reserve in the rear, under Gen Cameron-Gen. Ransom having been wounded the day before army came up, and then open the battle himself; but Gen Smith was commander in chief of the two lines back of the crest, while Gen. Mower was the immediate commander of the men. The commander of the right brigade in Gen. Smith's first line was Col. Lynch; the left brigade was Col Shaw's. The second line also consisted of two brigades-the right under control of Col. ---, and the left commanded by Col Hill. Crawford's Third Indiana battery was posted on the right of the Eighty-ninth Indiana infantry, and the Ninth Indiana battery on the right of the line of battle. The Missouri Sun battery and others whose names and numbers we could not ascertain were also in this section of the battle.

The skirmshing was kept up with considerable vigor until about five o'clock in the afternoon, when the rebels had completed their arrangements for the attack. At about this bour General Emory's skirmish line was driven in, on the right, by the rebels, who appeared in large force, coming through the timber above mentioned. The rebels soon reached the open ground, and moved on to the attack in three lines of battle. Our batteries and infantry opened with terrible effect, doing great slaughter with grape and cannister, while the enemy's artillery, being in the woods and in bad position, did scarcely any damage. Colonel Benedict's brigade on the left was first en-

raged, soon followed by Dwight's and McMillan's. The fighting was terrific; old soldiers say it was never surpassed for desperation. Notwithstanding the terrible havoe in their ranks, the enemy pressed fiercely on, slowly pushing the men of the Nueteenth Corps back up the hill. but not breaking their line of battle. A sudden and bold dash of the rebels on the right gave them possession of Tay or's battery, and forced our line still further back. Now came the grand coup de main. The Nineteenth,

n arriving at the top of the hill, suddenly filed off over the

hill and passed through the lines of Gen Smith. We must here mention that the rebels were now in but two lines of battle, the first having been almost annihilated by Gen. Emory, what remained being forced back into the second line. But the two lines came on exultant and sure of victory. The first passed over the knoll, and, all heedless of the long line of cannons and crouching forms of as brave men as ever trod mother earth, pressed on. The second line appeared on the crest, and the death signal was sounded. Words cannot describe the awful effects of this discharge. Seven thousand rifles and several batteries of artillery, each gun loaded to the muzzle with grape and canister, were fired simultaneously, and the whole centre of the rebel line was crushed down as s field of ripe wheat through which a tornado had passed. It is estimated that one thousand men were hurried into eternity or frightfully mang ed by this one discharge. No time given them

charge, and his men dashed rapidly forward, the boys of the Nineteenth joining in. The rebels fought boldly and desperately back to the timber, on reaching which a large portion broke and fled, fully two thousand throwing aside their arms.

In this charge Taylor's battery was retaken, as were also two of the guns of Nime's battery, the Parrott gun taken from us at Carrion Crow last fall, and one or two others belonging to the rebels, one of which was considerably shattered, besides seven hundred prisoners. A pursuit and lesultory fight was kept up for three miles, when our men returned to the field of battle.

And thus ended this fearful and bloody struggle for the control of Western Louisiana.

CASUALTIES

Some of the casualties among officers are specially noticed. We insert the names of those mentioned who are bove the grade of lieutenant:

Killed .- Col Benedict, New York; Col Webb, Illinois;

Col Mix, New York; Lieut Col. Newbold, Iowa; Capt. Black. Iowa; Lieut Col. Lindsay, Ohio.

Wounded.—Brig. Gen. Ransom; Col. Robinson, Louisiana; Lieut Col. Car and Col. Green; Capt Chapman, of Gen. Franklin's staff; Col. Vance, Ohio; Lieut Col. Cowen, Kentucky; Capt. Morse, Louisiana; Capt McCullouth, Illinois, missing; Capt. Stearn, missing; Capt. Morse, Indiana; Capt. Marklin, New York; Col. Crew, Morse, Indiana; Capt. Marklin, New York; Col. Crew, New Hames New York; Lieut. Col. Green; Capt. King, New Hampshire; M.jor Mann, Kentucky; Capt. Mahler, Louisiana; Major R.-ed, Illinois, missing; M. jor Royal E. Whitman, Maine; Col. Emerson, Maine; Capt. Breese, Missouri;

Among the rebels taken prisoners are three lieutenant colonels and six majors.

THE LATE GENERAL TOTTEN.

GENERAL ORDERS,) WAR DEPARTMENT. Adjutant General's Office, Washington, April 23, 1864.

Another, and among the last, of the heroes of our "Second War of Independence," is gone. Brevet Mejor General JOSEPH GILBERT TOTTEN, Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, departed this life on the 22d instant, in this city, in his seventy-sixth year.

Gen. TOTTEN was born August 23J, 1788, in New Haen, Connecticut, and graduated at the Military Academy n 1805, from which he was promoted to the Corps of Engineers, and, with a brief interval, from 1806 to 1808, continued in that arm of service, passing honorably through every grade until he became, in 1838, Chief Engineer of the Army. The Senate, before his death, unanimously confirmed his nomination by the President to be "Major General by brevet, for long, faithful, and eminent ser-

Gen. Totten's military career, of more than half a cenury, has been one of continued usefulness and distinguished services. In 1812 he was called to the field to assume the arduous and responsible position of Chief Engineer of the Army, on the Niagara frontier, where he took a conspicuous part in the attack on Queenstown Heights, and the following year in the capture of Fort George, Upper Canada, and repulse of the British flotilla on Lake Ontario. In 1813-14 he became Chief Engineer of the forces successively commanded by Generals Wilkinson, Izard, and Macomb; was in the attack on La Cole Mill, Lower Canada, and the battle of Plattsburg. In this brief war Gen. Totten won the respect and admiration of his brother officers, and the marked approbation of the Government, which conferred upon him two brevets for his meritorious and distinguished services. On the return of peace his high professional abilities were called into etivity on the Board of Engineers which projected our extended line of lake defences and seacoast fortifications. These works, most of which were planned by himself, are the enduring monuments to his memory. In the war with Mexico Gen. Scott summoned his early companion-in-arms o aid h m in the siege of Vera Cruz, where, for his "galant and meritorious conduct," Gen. Totten was breveted Brigadier General. For the past twenty-s x years he has been at the head of the Engineer Department, administering with untiring devotion, spotless integrity, and signal ability the varied duties, the financial responsibilities, and the professional labors of that arm of service, so essential to our national defence.

In addition to Gen. Totten's multiplied military avocations, he was an active member of the Light-House Board, from its organization in 1852; a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution from its establishment by Congress in 1846; a Corporator of the National Academy of Sciences, created in 1863; one of the Harbor Commissioners for the cities of New York and Boston, and a member of many scientific associations.

Distinguished for urbanity of manner, genial social qualities, and that great moral excellence which adorns he christian soldier and gentleman, he has left behind an exalted reputation, worthy the emulation of his brother fficers, and which his surviving children may well regard a priceless legacy.

Engineers and Military Academy will wear the prescribed badge of mourning for thirty days; and the day after the reception of this order at the Military Academy balf-hour runs will be fired there from sunrise to sunset, and the national flag be displayed at half-mast.

By order of the Secretary of War: E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

THE NEW YORK SANITARY FAIR.

NEW YORK, APRIL 24 - The Sanitary Fair closed last night, having realized \$1.011 000. The result of the sword voting was for Grant 30,291, for McClellan 14,509, scattering 163. The naval sword was voted to Com. Rowan. Admiral Farragut being next highest.

[The voting for the military sword at the close of the olis on Friday night stood as follows: There had been no excitement about the naval sword, and on Friday night the vote stood as fellows : Farragut 207 Rowan...... 101

Towards the end of the Fair it was determined to close the voting for the military sword (and probably both) at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and from that time until eight o'cl ck in the evening to receive subscriptions therefor in sealed envelopes or ballots. It appears from the foregoing despatch that as many if not more votes were received secretly within the last six hours than were openly received during the whole period of the Fair, which continued for three weeks. 1

The tract of land in Liberty district, Frederick county, (Md.) known as the " Hobbs Farm," was sold a few years ago at \$5,000. Since then it changed hands several times, and recently a party in Philafelphia became the purchaser at \$125,000. It is reported that large and very rich deposits of copper ore have been discovered on this

LABORERS IN TROUBLE .- A correspondent of the Chiago Journal, writing from Chattanooga, states that four hundred men from the North, employed as Government aborers on the railroads in that department, have been paid off and discharged for turbulent conduct, and are said be consigned, under a guard, to the regions beyond the

A WARNING -A man was detected in Boston inserting a false marriage in one of the newspapers. He was arrested, tried, and punished with the utmost severity, expisting his crime by confinement in a prison. Persons who undertake to impose upon the public and newspapers in this manner should understand that they are hable to